

Mackenzie (J. N.)

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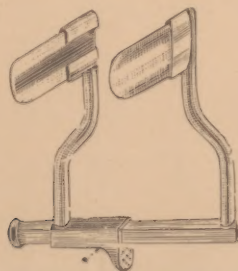
AN IMPROVED SELF-RETAINING NASAL SPECULUM.

BY JOHN N. MACKENZIE, M.D.,

SURGEON TO THE BALTIMORE EAR AND THROAT CHARITY HOSPITAL.

THE simple principle upon which this instrument acts is that involved in the ingenious eye speculum¹ and gag² devised by Dr. Russell Murdoch, of Baltimore.

Into the nasal extremity of each blade is fitted an ivory shield, which may be replaced, if necessary, by other dilating apparatus. At right angles to the distal end of one blade is a rectangular bar, upon which a well-fitting square sleeve, attached to the distal extremity of the other, slides with ease. This sliding motion is accomplished by means of slight pressure on the button or handle which juts out from the sleeve. In using the speculum, the ivory shields are brought together, introduced closed into the nostril, and separated by pressure on the button with the forefinger, counter-pressure being brought to bear on the free ex-



tremity of the bar with the thumb, or *vice versa*, according to the position in which the blades are introduced.

The pressure of the sides of the nostrils arrest the sleeve at any desired point, thus furnishing the simplest possible principle of self-retention. A touch upon the button releases the blades from their fixed position, thus permitting instantaneous removal of the instrument. The upper and under surfaces of the rectangular bar are roughened to increase the amount of friction.

The speculum is made by Willms & Co., of Baltimore.

¹ Transactions of Amer. Ophthal. Soc., 1883.

² THE MEDICAL NEWS, Sept. 6, 1884.

